

For immediate release
February 7, 2006

NEW RIVER WATER QUALITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROJECTS, MEXICALI SANITATION PROJECT ON AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY 21 PUBLIC MEETING

The Colorado River Citizens' Forum (CRCF) of the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, February 21 in Calexico, California. The purpose of the CRCF is to promote the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the community about Commission projects and related issues in the area. The meeting is scheduled for 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. (PST) at the Woman's Improvement Club of Calexico, 320 Heber Avenue, Calexico, CA 92232.

Marie Barrett of the Citizens' Congressional Task Force on the New River and Steve Charlton, Wetlands Project Manager for the Imperial Irrigation District, will discuss the New and Alamo River Wetlands Project. The presentation will include a summary of activities and an update on future projects for both the New and Alamo Rivers to improve the quality of water flowing into the Salton Sea. The presentation will be based on the recently-completed analysis of over three years of data collected from the two wetlands that are already established.

Pablo Orozco, Executive Director of the Calexico New River Committee, will provide an update on work with the Cal/EPA environmental justice pilot project in collaboration with the California State Water Resources Control Board. The goal of the pilot project is to develop and implement a Children's Environmental Risk Reduction Plan. The effort includes establishment of a Regional Advisory Committee of interest groups impacted by decisions or activities along the New River who will meet regularly during the pilot project. The work will include evaluation of existing efforts and establishment of new long-term

strategies to reduce river contaminants. The Children's Environmental Health Risk Reduction Plan will be developed to increase awareness among parents and children of the health hazards posed by the New River, target reduction of specific contaminants now introduced into the New River, and remediate the most impaired waterways with the highest adverse effect on human health.

The Citizens' Forum will also hear an update on the Mexicali II Sanitation Project from Efrain Muñoz, General Director of the State Public Services Commission of Mexicali (CESPM). The project will improve collection and treatment of wastewater generated in Mexicali, Baja California.

The Colorado River Citizens' Forum Board is comprised of nine residents of Yuma County, Arizona and Imperial County, California who represent diverse interests in the region. The board conducts quarterly public meetings in the area.

A complete meeting agenda appears below. Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting can contact the USIBWC's Yuma Project Office at 928-782-1598.

For more information:

Yuma Project Office
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COLORADO RIVER CITIZENS' FORUM

Tuesday, February 21, 2006

4:00 - 6:00 P.M. (PST)

Woman's Improvement Club of Calexico

320 Heber Avenue

Calexico, CA 92232

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions- Al Goff, Citizens' Forum Co-Chair, USIBWC
- Mexicali II Sanitation Project Update - Efrain Muñoz, General Director, CESPM
- New and Alamo River Wetlands Project - Marie Barrett, Outreach Coordinator, Citizens' Congressional Task Force on the New River, and Steve Charlton, Wetlands Project Manager, Imperial Irrigation District
- Calexico New River Committee - Pablo Orozco, Executive Director
- Public Comment
- Board Discussion/Suggested Future Agenda Items

If you have a disability that you wish to self-identify confidentially that requires accommodation, please advise us ahead of time.

For more information, call 928-782-1598.